

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02082 050919Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 /026 W
-----121534 050950Z /16-62

O 042130Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5291

S E C R E T AMMAN 2082

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING CAPTION INR FOR SAUNDERS)

INR FOR SAUNDERS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMMAN, RIYADH FROM JIDDA MAR 04
H/W REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE
S E C R E T JIDDA 1648

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L. JR.)
SUBJECT: ATHERTON VISIT

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED ANOTHER CALL FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY
UNDERSECRETARY THUNAYYAN WHO INFORMED ME THAT PRINCE SAUD
WILL NOT RETURN TO SAUDI ARABIA UNTIL TUESDAY. HE
SUGGESTED THAT ATHERTON COME TO JIDDA RATHER THAN RIYADH.
IN JIDDA, HE WILL BE RECEIVED BY THUNAYYAN AND MANSOURI,
THE SECOND AND THIRD RANKING MEN IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY,
FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

2. THUNAYYAN SAID THAT CROWN PRINCE WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE
SECRET

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IN RIYADH, BUT HE, THUNAYYAN, WOULD BE HAPPY TO HOST A
DINNER FOR ATHERTON AND PARTY IN JIDDA ON SUNDAY NIGHT.
THUNAYYAN MENTIONED THAT PRINCE SAUD WAS SEEING A PHYSICIAN
IN SWITZERLAND FOR AN INFECTION IN HIS HAND WHICH WAS A
RESULT OF A SKIING ACCIDENT.

3. AT THIS POINT, THUNAYYAN TURNED THE TELEPHONE OVER

TO MANSOURI WHO WAS ALSO IN THUNAYYAN'S OFFICE. I ASKED MANSOURI ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE KING WHICH THE SAUDIS OFFERED IF THE CROWN PRINCE WERE NOT AVAILABLE. MANSOURI REPLIED THAT THE KING WAS ALSO NOT AVAILABLE.

4. MANSOURI THEN SUGGESTED THAT THE OTHER LALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR ATHERTON TO POSTPONE HIS TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA UNTIL THE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNED.

5. COMMENT: I READ ALL THIS AS A SIGNAL THAT PRINCE SAUD WANTS TO BE ACTION OFFICER FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD PREFER THAT THE VISIT BE RESCHEDULED AFTER HIS RETURN FROM HIS SWISS VACATION. MY RECOMMENDATION IS THAT YOU CANCEL THE VIST FOR NOW AND RESCHEDULE AFTER WE HAVE DEFINITE CONFIRMATION THAT SAUD HAS IN FACT RETURNED TO HIS JOB. PERHAPS YOU COULD PLAN TO COME TO RIYADH AFTER YOUR NEXT VISIT TO CAIRO. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU COULD COME TO JIDDA TO MEET WITH MANSOURI AND THUNAYYAN, BUT BELIEVE YOUR TRIP WOULD HAVE MORE IMPACT ON THE SAUDIS IF IT WERE RESCHEDULED AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS.

6. PLEASE REPLY BY FLASH TO EMBASSY JIDDA, INFO RIYADH.
WILEY UNQUOTE PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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